



Jeff Smith will be packing his bags and moving west—from Georgetown to Greenwood

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

Foundation Board Announces New President/CEO

When current Foundation President and CEO, Mark Kasper, first mentioned retirement, the Board asked for six months' notice to secure a replacement through a nationwide search. The process did not take that long and, while applicants came from all over the country, the selected candidate was pretty close by. Jeff Smith, who grew up and raised his family in Greenwood, will be returning "home" from a recent stint as President and CEO of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce.

Foundation Board Chair Linda Dolny spoke excitedly about the new hire: "We advertised nationally and had a good pool of applicants. But community foundation work is about 'community' and so we felt it important to choose someone who cares deeply about the area and its future and can move the work of the Foundation to the next level. We know that Jeff Smith fills both these important criteria, plus he already has many strong local relationships."

Born in Columbia, Smith attended public schools in Greenwood and graduated from the University of South Carolina. He enjoyed careers in media marketing sales and direct marketing before he discovered his passion—being engaged in the business community where he lives and working to enhance its quality of life. He accomplished this as he served for seven years as the Business and Communications Director with the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

In Georgetown, Smith has been very active in the community; he serves on the Economic Development Alliance Board of Directors and sits on International Paper's Community Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Georgetown School District's CATE Advisory Board, as well as the Waccamaw Regional Education Council Advisory Board.

Jeff is excited to be returning home to once again be actively engaged in the community. He and his wife Lisa, a recently retired educator and Greenwood native as well, have two adult children who live in the area, and they recently welcomed their first grandchild on April 28th.

Sam Tolbert, founding Board chair, commented that what has occurred under Mark Kasper's leadership has been "truly remarkable. He got us on a good path." All are looking forward to the next phase of the Community Foundation's work in grantmaking, collaboration building and community strengthening through the philanthropic generosity of our local residents.

Greenwood County Community Foundation News

November 2015

Grants Awarded Recently

Since June 1, 2015 — \$284,207.10

From Foundation Unrestricted and Field of Interest Funds:

- Arts Council of Greenwood County
- Aviation Expo
- Beyond Abuse
- Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home
- Festiva
- Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity
- Greenwood Community Theatre
- Greenwood County Library
- Greenwood Festival Choral
- Greenwood Performing Arts
- Lander Foundation
- The Museum and Railroad Historical Center
- Piedmont Technical College Foundation
- Self Regional Healthcare

From Donor Advised and Designated Funds:

- Advance GCFA
- Alconon
- Child Evangelism Fellowship SC
- DiscipleMakers
- East Cooper Baptist Church
- GALA Choruses
- Girl Scouts SC Mountains to Midlands
- Greenwood Kiwanis Club
- Greenwood Genetics Center
- Greenwood Pathway House
- HospiceCare of the Piedmont
- Lancaster County Council of the Arts
- Make-A-Wish SC
- Northside Baptist Church
- Pi Kappa Phi Foundation
- Pride of Greenville Chorus
- Serge

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Trying to improve on attempts at retirement

I guess I actually like to work.

I have made two attempts at retirement, neither long-lasting. I moved to Fort Lauderdale when I sold my company at age 45, thinking I would never work again. Lazy days on the beach and long nights in the bars grew old. I entered the world of community foundation work — and loved it. My job was basically to market to wealth planners—to take accountants out to breakfast, attorneys out for lunch and stockbrokers out for drinks. Between was filled with helping people work out personal philanthropic plans. The work was fulfilling and great fun; the work environment—well, not so much. So one day I woke up and gave my second “retirement notice”. I didn’t work for a while, but a head-hunter contacted me about a start-up community foundation in Greenwood, SC. It presented a challenge; it would put me back in the South (I will always capitalize it); and it simply sounded like a lot of fun.

Well, it has been all those things—and more. I arrived over Thanksgiving week 2011 and will be moving on four years—to the week—later. During that time I have had one of the most rewarding experiences of my career and have been reminded of the joys of small-town Southern living. Greenwood is an incredible treasure of a community. We—the phenomenal Foundation Board, the nonprofit community, the generous donor community and I—have created a new, strong philanthropic entity in the Greenwood County Community Foundation. Those in the county now have a place that will advise, shepherd and steward their philanthropic plans for generations to come! Thank you for welcoming me and letting me be a part of this community-shaping process.

I am excited about my future, and to assure that I don’t jump back into work after this retirement, a friend from Key West and I have mapped out five years of international s-l-o-w travel (think 60 days Istanbul, 90 days Venice...). I am fully aware that most of these global sojourners only make it about three years. Hmm...then I will be 61 and maybe ready to come back “out of retirement”. Till then...be well. —Mark Kasper



Community Enhancement Grant Recipients Named

In each calendar year, Greenwood County Community Foundation channels unrestricted funds to a diverse range of projects and programs administered by organizations in our community. Numerous local requests were considered for funding in the most recent GCCF grant cycle, **Community Enhancement**. A total of \$25,000 was awarded to nine local organizations.

This Grant Review Committee was composed of: Rhett Baker, Nicholas Beasley, Pam Hunley, Julie Miner, John Patrick, Sheila Reynolds, Lisa Tolbert, and Brendan Treanor. Committee recommendations were reviewed and approved by the GCCF Board of Directors.

Grant recipients funded and their proposals are:

Arts Council of Greenwood County (\$4500) for teachers and supplies for outreach summer arts camps; held offsite, for 2-6 weeks each, in area churches and community centers in target communities.

Aviation Expo (\$1500) in support of their annual aviation event during the Festival of Flowers, open to all ages.

Festiva (\$500) toward performance fees for two musical ensembles in spring 2016 – Three on a String and The Cecilia Ensemble; all performances offered to community with no admission fee.

Greenwood Community Theatre (\$4500) for production expenses, (royalties and contract labor) to enable GCT to offer attendance at no cost to low income children and youth.

Greenwood County Library

Pictured above: One of the highly prized cars at the Railroad Historical Center and one of the guest choirs as part of the Festiva series.

(\$3000) to develop Autism/Developmental Disorders Resource Center comprised of materials (books, DVDs, toys, games, etc.) for parents, teachers, and caregivers of people with autism and other developmental disorders.

Greenwood Festival Chorale (\$1000) for music purchase and orchestra expenses for three concerts in 2015/2016.

Greenwood Performing Arts (\$3000) to offset expenses of a dance master class and for student attendance at an outreach performance of “Two on Tap”.

Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity (\$5000) for a portion of construction expenses for a Habitat house, in partnership with Lander University.

The Museum and Railroad Historical Center (\$2000) for research, story development and writing for a large-scale train exhibit, and production of one initial outdoor panel (in a series of eight panels).

Grant requests now match our **Community Indicators** measurables. **Youth and Education** grant monies were disbursed May of this year. **Innovation** grant requests have been received (with awards to be announced soon) and **Open Granting** requests are now being submitted. Each applicant organization seeks to enrich our home community of Greenwood County in specific ways. GCCF helps to make these goals possible!

Donor Advised Funds: Nurturing Youth, Effecting Change

How might you contribute to concerns and communities that you care about? Donor Advised Funds with Greenwood County Community Foundation can create new possibilities for the public good and strengthen existing charitable work. These are often disbursed in support of ongoing programs or special projects within our home county. But, they can also reach beyond these closer borders to touch the lives of those farther away.

A national organization that has attracted support from a GCCF donor is **GALA Choruses (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses)**. Through his Donor Advised Fund, he has chosen to support a youth delegate to their tenth GALA Festival to be held in Denver in July. The Festival is expected to include 6000 singers from 110 choruses. He observes, "I have seen how performing with choral groups has changed the lives of gay and lesbian individuals. More than creating strong and lasting friendships, these participants have grown in self-confidence, discipline and in the ability to work as members of a

team." With a particular concern for the increased risk of suicide attempts for LGBT youth (four times that of their straight peers) and bullying, he is attuned to this way of giving positive social support and experience to LGBT choristers. "Coming out as a gay or lesbian individual is never easy, even in the most welcoming home environments. I see my gift as giving one young, developing individual the chance to see that they are not alone, to find mentors, and to share in the beauty of song in a safe and fun setting."

One Fundholder was recently moved by an appeal from a friend attempting to bolster her \$2500 fundraising commitment to **Make-A-Wish SC**. While the donor's friend is trekking on the group's day-long Trailblaze Challenge of nearly 30

miles, his Donor Advised Fund will enable the donor to also be a part of this event to raise awareness of and funds for Make-A-Wish SC. In turn, those contributions will



help "grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich [their lives] with hope, strength, and joy" here in our state. The hiker is anticipating "taking on this extreme endeavor to be a part of something bigger than myself" and she will take her supporters along with her for the walk.

Endowment Match Program to End December 31

When the Greenwood County Community Foundation was begun, one very forward-looking individual orchestrated a 2.5 million dollar start-up gift. In addition, he set up a plan to encourage the Foundation to grow in its early years: For each dollar that the Foundation received in new gifts, a matching dollar would then be contributed.

The founding Board of the organization wanted to encourage individuals in the community to create their own endowed Funds within the Foundation, and so they elected to pass along fifty percent of this match to individual donor contributions. The Foundation now boasts eighteen named endowed Funds and each one of these has benefitted from this match. The current Foundation Board has decided to temporarily suspend this match program at the end of 2015; it may be reinstated at some point in the future.

The match program has been so successful that the Board has had to place some parameters on gifts, but these guidelines do not prohibit most donors from fully participating. The maximum match that any Fund can receive is \$25,000 and the maximum match that any individual donor can be credited with is \$25,000. Still, when is the last time that anyone wanted to match your valued charitable contribution with fifty-cents-on-the-dollar?

If you have considered making a lifetime gift of permanent, enduring value, now is the best time to consider a Fund at the Greenwood County Community Foundation. Considering the match, an endowment can be started with less than \$14,000. Contact us prior to December 31, 2015. The process can often be completed in less than an hour—creating something to last many generations.



Four Endowed Funds Have Recently Been Created

The last few months have been busy at the Community Foundation with a variety of endowments being created. Two Funds were created by individuals and two were created by organizations.

The Barbara Holbrook Parham Music Trust (Donor Advised) was formed because Jack and Barbara Parham have shared their love of music with Greenwood through generous gifts to a wide variety of performing and music arts. That spirit will continue long after they are gone and they will always be remembered. Each year a grant from this Fund will

provide assets for a different live performance.

The Major Walter Benson Scholarship (Field of Interest Scholarship) was created by 1943 Greenwood High School graduate to honor the encouragement and compassion offered by the school's former principal. Recipients will be graduates of the high school.

The Greenwood Community Theatre Endowment (Designated) was formed when their Board led a small, quiet campaign among loyal donors who want to ensure that the Theatre continues to offer quality programming for many generations.

The Arts Center Endowment (Designated) was begun utilizing the bequest gift of a long-time friend

of the Arts Center. Each year the distribution from this Fund will go to help with operations and fund special projects and events.

Each individual has been shaped by a set of life values as unique as their personality or DNA. Each organization operates by a set of guiding principles. A Fund at your local Community Foundation can help those values and principles live on, attached to a your (or your group's) name and memory for years to come.

Is Greenwood included in your will or estate plan? Contact us to create your own custom, permanent legacy!

For more information, go to the GCCF Website at:
www.GreenwoodCF.org



**GREENWOOD COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Interesting local projects need your support at GreenwoodGives.org

Staff
 Mark Kasper
 President/CEO
 Carol Wood
 Financial Assistant
 Mary Woodriss
 Projects & Grants Manager
 Dan Koenig
 Communications Volunteer

Joe Chandler
 A. C. "Bubba" Fennell
 Darrell Johnson
 Denise Medford
 Sam Tolbert
 Martha Barnett
 Marnie Nicholson

Board of Directors
 Linda Dolny, Chair
 Megha Lal, Vice Chair
 Sam Leaman, III, Secretary
 Julius Leary, Jr., Treasurer

**Greenwood County
Community Foundation**
 929 Phoenix St, St 16
 Greenwood, SC 29646
 Phone: 864.223.1524

